

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a fetal cell in a maternal blood sample, the method comprising:

- a) obtaining a sample of maternal blood that contains one or more fetal cells; and
- b) detecting a maternal antibody from the mother bound to a paternally inherited fetal antigen on a fetal cell, to thereby identify the fetal cell.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the method further step b)~~ comprises ~~exposing~~ contacting the maternal antibody bound to a fetal cell ~~[[to]]~~ with an agent capable of forming a complex with the maternal antibody.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is detectably labelled.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the label is used to detect the fetal cell-maternal antibody complex.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a fetal cell in a sample, the method comprising ~~exposing~~:

- a) contacting cells in the sample ~~[[to]]~~ with maternal antibodies, and
- b) detecting a maternal antibody from the mother bound to a fetal cell, wherein the maternal antibodies comprise maternally produced antibodies specific for paternally-inherited fetal antigens, to thereby identify the fetal cell.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the maternal antibodies are prepared by a process comprising dissociation of antibodies from a complex with a soluble HLA antigen and/or an anti-idiotypic antibody.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~the method further step b)~~ comprises ~~exposing~~ contacting the maternal antibody bound to a fetal cell ~~[[to]]~~ with an agent capable of forming a complex with the maternal antibody.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the agent is an antibody or antibody fragment.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the agent is a polypeptide that binds to an immunoglobulin.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of: protein A, protein G, and protein L.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the agent is detectably labelled.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the label on the agent is used to detect the fetal cell maternal antibody complex.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of: a fluorescent label, a radioactive label, a paramagnetic particle, a chemoluminescent label, an enzymatic label and a label that is detectable by binding to a molecule.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the label is a paramagnetic particle and wherein the step of detecting the fetal cell-maternal antibody complex comprises ~~exposing~~ contacting the cells bound by agent-maternal antibody complexes to a magnet.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according claim 13, wherein the label is a fluorescent label and wherein the step of detecting the fetal cell-maternal antibody complex comprises performing fluorescence activated cell sorting.

16. – 68 (Cancelled)